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“The especial genius of women, I believe to be electrical in movement, intuitive in function, spiritual in tendency.” Margaret Fuller, 1810-1950

Considering the current economic, social, and political “state of the nation” in this critical and history-making election year, women and their philanthropic partnerships take on a more creative role and purpose in carrying out what author and former director of The Center on Philanthropy, Robert L. Payton identifies as the heart of the philanthropic experience. Payton defines philanthropy as “...the principal means by which our ethics and values shape the society in which we live.”

I conjecture that the “tipping point” for this season of Women as Philanthropists to help define the ethics and values in our country occurred in January 2006 when in one week we lost three of our modern icons in women's history – playwright Wendy Wasserstein, author and founder of NOW Betty Friedan, and civil rights activist Coretta Scott King. For those of us leading-edge Boom-Generation Women (1943-1953) as we were paying our respects to three courageous, creative and compassion women, we realized that the “Third Act” curtain was about to rise on our own lives, and the desire to leave a legacy and be pro-active in directing our values and our valuables, our intangible and tangible assets took on a new urgency. And with that urgency came a need for each of us to look inward into our heart and soul to find answers to what is the significance of my life's purpose and how can and will I make a difference. As we move from dreaming to doing, with encouragement and education from trusted wealth coaches, professional advisors and not-for-profit leaders as our partners, we become ignited as *Torchbearers for Virtuous Philanthropy*, and our “especial genius” unfolds and blossoms.

One successful technique to spark and nurture the passion in our heart and soul is through the writing of “Heart-O-Grams” Start by completing the following and then write some of your own. Share your expressions with your trusted advisors and friends.

I want to be remembered for _____.

Someone (thing) I am grateful for is _____ because _____.

The joy I receive from giving is _____.

Carpe Diem!